

Guidelines for Removing a Healthy Street Tree

The following are factors to consider if a question is raised whether a street tree could or should be removed, whether for construction, because it is in a place that does not allow it to grow naturally, such as under utility cables, or another reason.

Considerations in deciding to retain or remove a tree

	Factor	Supports Keeping tree	Supports Removing tree
1	The tree presents a likely hazard, either now or in near future, due to ill health, extensive damage, or conformation (unbalanced growth or pruning which may cause the tree to fall)	No	Yes
2	Continued pruning over the tree's life is likely to be to the extent that it will present a risk for the tree's health or conformation	No	Yes
3	The tree species is known to be at a higher risk for breakage, such as white pine or silver maple	No	Yes
4	The tree is fairly young, with a DBH less than 6"	No	Yes
5	Replanting close by would be difficult (e.g., due to space, abutter or financial issues)	Yes	No
6	Nearby trees would take over the canopy space currently occupied by the tree	No	Yes
7	The tree species is native to the Northeast	Yes	No
8	It is an invasive species	No	Yes
9	The location is suitable for the health of the species (e.g., not excessively wet, salty, dry, etc.)?	Yes	No
10	The tree represents species diversity in its neighborhood	Yes	No
11	A replacement tree will be planted and maintained until established rather than mitigated financially	No	Yes

Tree location: _____

Species and size: _____

Comments: